

12 February 2023

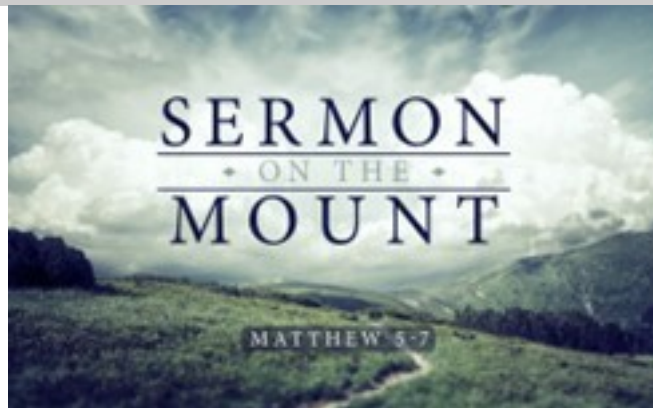


BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA

The Sermon on the Mount...

Over these few weeks during the season of Epiphany, we have been focusing on the early stages of Jesus' ministry as outlined in the Gospel of Matthew. The Gospel writer is keen to highlight that a focal point of Christ's ministry centres around announcing the good news:

'From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."'- Matthew 4:17



This announcement of God's kingdom or reign is mentioned throughout the stories of Jesus' ministry and much of his teaching focuses on describing what this kingdom should and will be like. One of the prominent themes in this case, is the nature of this kingdom which is presented as counter cultural when compared to the kingdoms of Jesus' context and also when compared to the kingdoms, governments and systems of our contemporary times. Jesus presents a right-side up kingdom in an upside-down world, if you like, and in doing so shares teaching which is described by his contemporaries as authoritative and which also presents some serious challenges if it is to be lived out.

After announcing this kingdom in Matthew Chapter 4, Matthew Chapters 5-7 then present the core of Jesus' teaching, as he spends time with his disciples and the crowds who gather to hear this amazing teacher. We will be considering this section over the coming weeks in our worship gatherings. This teaching of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel has become known as the Sermon on the Mount, as the Gospel reveals Jesus going up a mountain (allusions to Moses' mountaintop experience in Exodus as he receives God's Ten Commandments are reflected clearly here), sitting down and teaching his disciples this important wisdom about God's Kingdom and how to live.

As we journey through this part of the New Testament we are invited to reflect on our understanding and engagement with the teaching of Christ and to consider how this might shape our own calling to ministry as individuals and as a congregation.

May you be challenged, surprised and inspired either for the first time, or in a new way, by the teachings of Jesus and his descriptions about the kingdom of heaven. May you also choose to engage in ministry, seeking to make things here on earth as it is in heaven.

Grace & peace, Rev Phil

We acknowledge the Arakwal people of the Bundjalung nation, the original custodians of this place. We acknowledge their deep spiritual connection to these lands and waterways upon which we live and gather, and honour their elders past, present and emerging.

MISSION AND MINISTRY

Please contact us to find out more about any of our programs and activities.

Every Week...

Open Church: Tuesday 9:30am-11:30am Byron Bay UCA (on a pause)

Scripture: Thursday 12pm-2pm @ Byron Bay PS during the School Term (Rev Phil)

Now Operating...

Byron Bay Uniting Church Op Shop: The Op Shop has now reopened. Open Monday-Friday from 9am-1pm

Upcoming events...

Mission Planning Day: Saturday 11th February @ Byron Bay UCA

Growing Young Session: Monday 13th February, 3pm @ Bangalow UCA

Church Council Quarterly Meeting: Tuesday 28th February, 9:30am @ Byron Bay UCA

Harvest Festival Gathering: Sunday 5th March, 5pm @ Bangalow UCA

Feros Morning Tea: Wednesday 15th March, 10am @ Bangalow UCA

Family Social Picnic: Friday 17th March, 5pm @ Bangalow Park

Family Easter Gathering: Sunday 2nd April, 5pm @ Bangalow UCA

Easter Crafternoon: Tuesday 4th April, 3.15-5pm @ Bangalow UCA

Banking Details:

Giving your offering or tithe by Direct Debit or EFTPOS is a helpful way of engaging in this important act of worship.

If you would like to do this the banking details for our church are:

BSB:634-634

Account Number: 100 018 564

Speak to our Treasurer George Graham for more details on offering, gifts or bequests.

Bangalow Byron Bay Uniting Church: 6601 2010

<https://byronshireunitingchurches.uca.org.au>

 <https://www.facebook.com/BangalowByronBayUnitingChurch>

Minister: Rev. Phil Dokmanovic

Phil: 0425 291 955 // phild@nswact.uca.org.au

(Minister's Day Off: Friday)

Church Council Secretary: Corinne Nash 6629 1692
email: allthenashes@gmail.com



Harvest Festival & Auction - Sunday 5th March 5pm @ Bangalow UCA

Our annual Harvest Festival is just a few weeks away. The evening will begin with a shortened time of worship where people of all ages can participate, followed by a meal and then our famous Harvest Auction. Please invite friends and family along from the community and consider what produce or goods you might bring along to be auctioned. All funds raised will go towards the ministry and mission of our congregation as we seek to make a difference in our local community. This includes supporting and caring for the vulnerable and those in need, creating safe spaces for groups and individuals and offering a range of services for families and people of all ages in our community.

Feros Morning Tea - Wednesday 15th March, 10am @ Bangalow UCA

During the Christmas Tree Festival week last year we hosted residents from the Feros Village in Bangalow for a lovely morning tea. From this came the idea to host occasional morning teas for the residents, as a way of supporting and encouraging them. The next morning tea is scheduled for Wednesday 15th March and all are welcome to join us for this occasion. If you are available to assist with the hospitality/catering on this day please let Rev Phil know.

Family Social Picnic - Friday 17th March, 5pm @ Bangalow Park

To provide another opportunity for connection and time together, we are having another Family Social Event on the 17th March. This will take place at the Bangalow Park starting at 5pm. Everyone is invited and please bring a picnic meal to enjoy. There will be opportunities to chat, spend time together and maybe play a fun game of cricket. This is one way we are trying to encourage our families and kids to connect and have fun.

Gideons "Bibles For the World" Function - Friday 24th February

This annual function hosted by Ballina Gideons will be held at Eastgate Christian Community Auditorium 20 Centennial Cct., Byron Bay on Friday 24th February at 6.45pm. The cost is \$5 and the evening is aimed at raising funds to supply bibles in countries overseas. Phil Bailey, the president of this group, has spoken about their work in our gatherings in recent years and sends this invitation to us all.

Lectionary Readings

12 February	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Psalm 119:1-8	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Matthew 5:21-37
19 February	Exodus 24:12-18	Psalm 2 or Psalm 99	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9
26 February	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Psalm 32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
5 March	Genesis 12:1-4a	Psalm 121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17: 1-9

Gathered Worship

Sunday 12th February	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 19th February	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 26th February	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 5th March	9.30am Byron Bay - Communion & Morning Tea 5pm Bangalow - Harvest Festival	- Rev Phil



ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 12 February: Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland

Week of 19 February: France, Germany, Monaco

Prayer Points:

- All those impacted by flooding and extreme weather in Auckland, and for the families of those who have died.
- Those who have been struggling with their health and unable to join us for gathered worship. May they experience God's healing and peace at this time.
- Those grieving the loss of loved ones and friends in this season. May we share together in this journey with one another, showing love, care and support. *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."* - Matthew 5:4
- Our first mission planning session, as we begin this journey of exploring our mission and ministry into the future and for Rev Dr Cameron Eccleston as he facilitates this process with us.

Newsletter Items: If you have an event or item for the newsletter, please email Phil the full details by the Tuesday before release, so that we can keep people informed and up to date.